



MEETING MINUTES / 15 AUGUST 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster, Baldwin, Bradley, Hampton, Lardizzone, McMullen (telephone), Newman, Newstadt, Sarg, and Seppala **92.3%**

Absences: Magner,

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Jessica Finan (Home of the Brave), Louis Wright (29th Infantry), MyRon Smith (prior Commissioners), Gloria Smith, and Jack Tillman

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for 3 Marines killed in an airline crash off Australia and 2 soldiers killed in Iraq
Presented Commissioner Smith and his wife Gloria with departure certificates (commissioner resigned)
City of Dover is using the Veteran Homelessness Program as a pilot to end city homelessness
Addressing veteran suicide is a continuous program that needs attention
- Commissioners were encouraged to attend the Veteran and Military Mental Health Summit, 14 September
- Delaware Joining Forces meeting, 17 August will feature suicide prevention speakers

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and Sarg

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Ginny Yelland, Public Affairs

Brought newsletters for distribution

Director Kane is passionate about addressing Veteran suicide and will bolster prevention programs

Cincinnati VAMC completed staff training on the Tela-ICU 24/7 coverage program

- ICU and ER are now 24/7 operations
- Available to talk with providers about using equipment
- Assists with after-hours care
- Solely for inpatient and emergency room care

Bill Griffith was named CBOC Director overseeing five CBOCs in Delaware and New Jersey

Keys were received for the Sussex (Georgetown) CBOC

- Still working on the interior
- Opening date is still being worked
- Looking forward to transitioning to facility

Dover CBOC is seeking expansion or a new facility

Flu shot clinics will be held the first week of September

Veteran Resource Fair, 18 September / 1500 – 1800, staff will highlight programs

(Newstadt) What is the orthopedic contract status?

Unknown and will research

(Bradley) Stated the Nurse Call Center number did not work (also mentioned during July meeting)

Will check on the system

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

105 residents

Gold suite is still closed for renovation

Bathing suite may be available next week

- Removed nursing station for more room

Wilmington VAMC Survey

- May receive an “Immediate Jeopardy” rating due to safety

- - Surveyors concerned about open front door and staff’s knowledge of residents’ location on campus

- - Concerned dementia residents may wander

- Report has not been officially filed

- Final report is approximately 60 days out

Computer system, tracking residents’ whereabouts, was knocked off-line but has been corrected

- 46 cameras throughout the facility

Dental suite initiative is going forward

- Friends of the Home members will visit Charlotte Hall Veterans Home’s (Maryland) dental suite on 28 August (Newstadt) What type of punishment could come from VA regarding survey findings?

VA could stop Veteran care payments (reimbursements)

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

15 males and 6 females (two openings)

Awarded two contract women beds, sponsored by the VA, beginning in October

Ramp construction (disabled access) will be done for the female facility

Cornhole tournament (see flyer), 23 September / 1300

Redesigned website has new look and better accessibility

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Commissioner Newstadt introduced Maurice Legget from the Jewish War Veterans

Former Commissioner Smith introduced Louis Wright from the 29th Infantry

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 50

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments - 23

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Federal Delegation has two Veteran job fairs scheduled (see list of events)

Thunder Over Dover (airshow) 26 and 27 August, handicapped access available through North Gate

Kent County Economic Summit, 19 September / 0730 – 1400, Delaware Tech’s Terry Campus

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

State legislators are not in session

No signature date for House Bill 24

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

Professional Airman's Conference (National) was 22 – 25 July, Reno NV

- Various high level Air Force leaders addressed members

Chapter 201 Membership meeting resulted in a new President, TSgt Britini Jennie

Dover AFB POW/MIA Day Ceremony, 15 September

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Legion Baseball World Series continues

Legion riders are riding from Indiana to Nevada, raising money for Veteran causes

National Convention, 18 – 24 August, Reno NV

Drum and bugle corps accepting members 16 and up

- Will participate in state-wide parades with the legion

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

National Convention, 5 – 12 August, Norfolk VA, elected Marion Polk as commander

Thanked Disabled American Veterans for assisting an organization member

Unable to host Veterans Day event due to hosting Sussex County event

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

National Convention, 29 July – 1 August, New Orleans LA, elected Delphine Metcalf-Foster as commander

Outreach event in Camden 21 August and in September Delaware Tech's Terry Campus

Currently unfilled (KWVA)

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

Submitted lobby letter to federal delegation

- Eliminate sequestration and end harmful defense cuts

- Oppose disproportional TRICARE fee hikes

- Eliminate DoD Survivor Benefit Plan Annuity – VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation Offset

Submitted payment for DVTF Dinner table, urges others to support

Commissioner Magner (MOPH)

Not present

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

National Convention, 22 – 26 July, New Orleans LA

- VA discussed national initiatives

Twenty percent cut for grant and aid will negatively impact service officers, will lobby to return funding

- Request other service organizations support this return

Scheduled to meet with legislators from 11 – 14 September

(Lardizzone and Newstadt motioned to add grant and aid review to legislative committee, motion approved)

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Meeting with students interested in donating toward DVTF

Fleet Reserve National Convention, 19 – 24 September, serving as Delaware's representative

Discussed "Getting into Education" brief, for those interested in teaching, can contact for additional information

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

National Guard Headquarters will host the 17 August Delaware Joining Forces meeting
261st Signal Brigade Homecoming, 25 August / 1430, Smyrna Readiness Center
National Guard Association Convention, 7 – 10 September, Louisville KY
Legislative Day, Capitol Hill, 19 October

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

New Castle County Executive Matt Myers addressed the Jewish War Veterans

- Veteran housing will be a focus

Asked to provide the executive with commission information (code, website, etc.)

Jewish War Veterans hosted bingo at the Wilmington VAMC

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)

National Convention, 1 – 6 August, Billings MT, new Commander-in-Chief Dave Gibson

Delaware Military Museum is setting up a Korean War room exhibit

Commissioner Hampton (At Large)

Informed commission of resignation due to work and personal obligations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 8, Granted 6 (75%), Awarded \$8056.04 and Balance \$69,091.00

Future meetings will utilize the television monitor

Discussed need to expand views and thoughts of who are Veterans, to include younger (30 and under) members who do not join organizations and have differing needs

Discussed Armed Services Exposure and Preparation Program initiated by Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki and U.S. Army Recruiters

- Attended initial meeting discussing program
- Focused on Wilmington “at-risk” youth
- Veteran input would involve mentors and tutors
- Program is for mentoring and not solely for introduction into the military

TERM EXPIRATION:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

World War I Memorial (CLOSED)

- Projected Saturday, 4 November dedication, following Veterans Day parade (0900)

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair and Vice Chair Nominating Committee

- Newstadt (Chair), McMullen, and Lardizzone comprise the committee
- Taking nominations for October vote

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

SPECIAL SESSION:

Lunch was sponsored by Mission BBQ

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 19 September 2017 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

American Veterans Post 2, 32592 Long Neck Road, Millsboro DE